

San Diego DX Club Bulletin

October 2022



MEETING PROGRAM

Our presenter will be announced shortly

MEETING NOTICE

The October, 2022 meeting of the SDDXC will be held on Wednesday, October 26th at 6:30 P.M. PDST at Elijah's Restaurant located at 7061 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard as well as on Zoom. Come early for social hour and dinner.

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President:

Miguel Rivera, KJ6YXI

Rivera1pet315@gmail.com

Vice President/Pgm Chair:

Tom Myrick, N6JOJ

<n6joj1@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer:

Randy Standke, KQ6RS

(619) 890-2697

r55stan@gmail.com

Past President:

Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ

Board of Directors:

Lou Poanessa, KW6Q

Bob LaRose, W6ACU

Danny Floyd, WB6FWS

Contest Results:

John Barcroft, K6AM

k6am@arrl.net

"TOP 10":

Glen Christensen, AI6RR

iam.gchrist@gmail.com

Webmaster:

Glen Christensen, AI6RR

Historian:

Glenn Rattmann, K6NA

(760) 749-3936

k6na@cts.com

Bulletin Editor:

Bob Farkaly, K9RHY

(619) 602-2653

bob@farkaly.com

From the Prez . . .

Miguel, KJ6YXI

Topic: SDDXC October, 2022 Meeting

Time: Oct 26, 2022 06:30 P.M. Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86188010933?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86188010933?pwd=R0VMMkRicTluTXRBQ3A2azZScmxOZz09)

[pwd=R0VMMkRicTluTXRBQ3A2azZScmxOZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86188010933?pwd=R0VMMkRicTluTXRBQ3A2azZScmxOZz09)

Meeting ID: 861 8801 0933

Passcode: 787930

Miguel, KJ6YXI

Secretary/Treasurer Reports

Randy, KQ6RS

SDDXC Meeting Minutes, September 28, 2022

Our September meeting was held in person at Elijah's Restaurant and on Zoom. Fourteen members attended (nine in person and five on Zoom). We had one guest. His first name is Alias (I missed his last name). He is a formerly licensed ham.

At 6:30 P.M. Tom Myrick, N6JOJ called the meeting to order.

Announcement: The Holiday Party will be held on December 18th.

There was no new or old business.

We did not have a presenter this month

At 6:50 we played a video on the BS7H Scarborough Reef DXpedition.

At 7:50 P.M. the meeting adjourned.

Treasurer's Report

Income for September: \$70.00 Membership

Expenses for September: \$1,048.00 for Summer Bash. \$64.00 for 2023 web hosting.

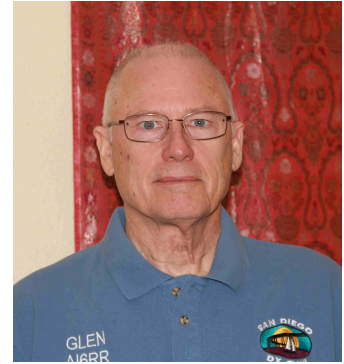
Balance on 10/7/2022 was: \$5,298.10



Randy, KQ6RS

SDDXC DX STANDINGS

Glenn, AI6RR



Standings are always available on the SDDXC website at
[San Diego DX Club \(sddxc.org\)](http://sddxc.org)

Glenn, AI6RR

SDDXC Contest Results

John, K6AM



SDDXC RESULTS 2022 ARRL CW CONTEST

CALL	CLASS	SCORE	QSO'S	MLTS	Finish
N6CW (@W6XI)	SOU HP	1,135,704	1,215	316	#4 SW Div,
N5ZO	SOU HP	738,750	995	250	#5 SW Div,
W6YA	SO 15	289,602	1,052	93	#1 W6, #1 SW Div, #3 US/VE
K6NA	SO HP	184,059	404	153	#6 SW Div.
K6AR	SO 40	66,933	337	67	#3 US/VE
K6ZH	SO HP	43,011	182	81	#8 SW Div.
NE6I	SOU LP	15,750	111	50	
W6JBR	SO LP	15,147	101	51	

John, K6AM

From the Editor

Bob, K9RHY

Turkmenistan, # 23 (and rising) on the DXCC Most Wanted Entity List



In July 2022, I wrote a short piece about the increasing rarity of some DXCC entities. I was surprised to see that Turkmenistan (EZ, UH8) had risen to number 23 on the DXCC scarcity roster. Having just written about another entity rising to “rare” status (KH3, Johnston Island, *SDDXC Bulletin, September, 2022*) I thought it might be interesting to take a deeper look at #23.

This story explores how EZ may become the next P5 (DPRK) as another “most elusive” entity.

In June, 2010, Bill Moore, of the ARRL DXCC Desk, confirmed that EZ7V would count as the last EZ station eligible for DXCC credit for operations up to and until December 31, 2006. Contacts with ANY EZ station after that date would NOT be counted. That interpretation remains in effect today and will continue in effect until a great deal of change occurs.

How did this happen? Between 2002 and 2004, serious tension arose between Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan because of a variety of bilateral disputes but mostly because Turkmenistan’s President for Life, Saparmurat Niyazov (who had held near absolute power in Turkmenistan for the previous decade) blamed Uzbekistan for a role in his 2002 assassination attempt. In 2004, a series of bilateral treaties restored friendly relations. In the parliamentary elections of December 2004 and January 2005, only Niyazov's party was allowed to vote. In 2005, Niyazov exercised his President for Life power by closing all hospitals outside Ashgabat (the capital of Turkmenistan) and all rural libraries. 2006 saw intensification of the trends of many policy changes including the shuffling of top officials, diminishing economic output outside the oil and gas sector, and isolation from regional and world organizations. The death of Niyazov at the end of 2006 left a power vacuum, as his cult of personality, (almost identical to that surrounding eternal president Kim Il-sung of North Korea), had precluded the naming of a successor. Deputy Prime Minister Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow was named interim head of government, and won a special presidential election held in early February 2007. Berdimuhamedow won two additional elections, with approximately 89% to 97% of the vote (depending on who counted the ballots) in both 2012 and 2017. His son Serdar Berdimuhamedow won a snap presidential election in 2022, establishing a political dynasty in Turkmenistan. On March 19, 2022, Serdar Berdimuhamedov was sworn in as Turkmenistan’s new president to succeed his father.

If this all sounds familiar, it should.



Turkmenistan is divided into five provinces or *welayatlar* (singular *welayat*) and one capital city district. The provinces are subdivided into districts (*etraplar*, sing. *etrap*), which may be either counties or cities., some cities may have the status of *welayat* (province) or *etrap* (district). In the former Soviet Union, Turkmenistan was divided into regions called "Oblasts".



The name Turkmenistan is derived from Persian, meaning "land of the Turkmen". The name of its capital, Ashgabat is derived from Persian as well, translating as "the city of love". Until 1991, Turkmenistan was a Republic of the former Soviet Union. It is bordered by Afghanistan to the southeast, Iran to the southwest, Uzbekistan to the northeast, Kazakhstan to the northwest, and the Caspian Sea to the west.

Although it is wealthy in natural resources, most of the country is covered by the Karakum (Black Sands) Desert.



Not unlike Pyongyang in the DPRK, Ashgabat with its marble palaces, gold domes and vast expanses of manicured park-land, has been reinvented as a showcase city for the republic and is one of Central Asia's – if not the world's – strangest places. Built almost entirely from the revenues generated by Turkmenistan's oil and gas revenues, the city has seen white marble monoliths spring up overnight like mushrooms.



You can visit Turkmenistan by flying through Istanbul. A one-way coach seat from San Diego to Ashgabat will set you back \$3,530 while upgrading to a business class seat can be yours for \$11,630. But you won't be able to get a ham license once you arrive.

If you go, don't fly Turkmenistan Airlines. On February 4, 2019 Turkmenistan Airlines was banned by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) from flying in European airspace due to its safety non-compliance.

Also, once you arrive, don't expect much in the way of an internet connection and be advised that the use of a VPN is also strictly prohibited. The authorities of Turkmenistan have blocked residents' (and visitors') access to



VPN services and to all foreign news sites. Websites and mobile applications of RIA Novosti, TASS, RBC, InoSMI and Russian television companies with news programs are blocked.

Independent media, all social networks, most messengers and even the sites of foreign banks and payment systems have been blocked in the country for many years. iPhone owners can use them only for calls, as the App Store functions for downloading applications and music do not work, and for computers it is impossible to update Windows and any Windows programs.

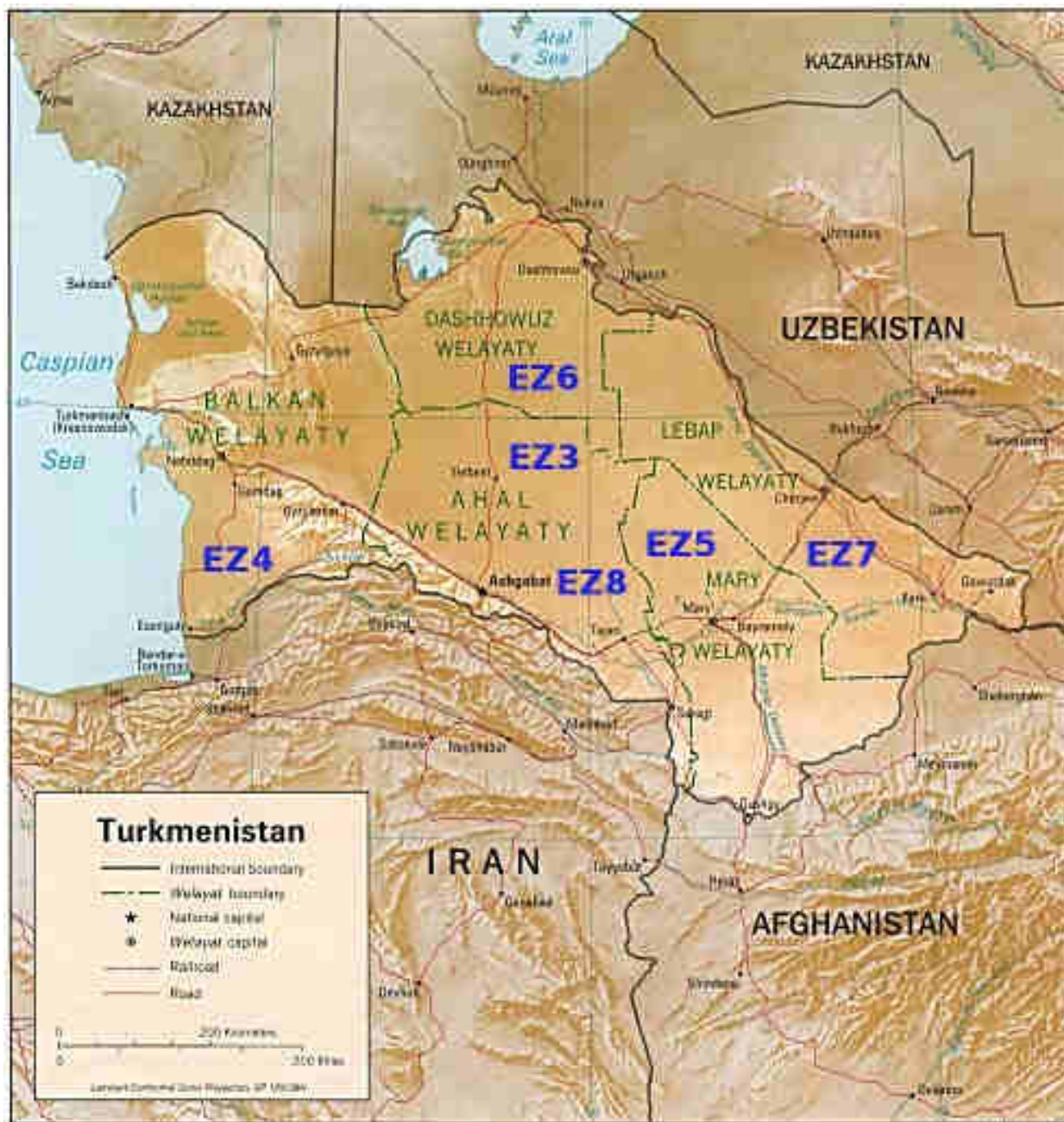
Turkmenistan is considered one of the most closed states in the world and traditionally occupies the last places in the ratings of freedom of the press and the Internet. If you try to install a VPN on a smartphone, you go to detention for 15 days.

As to ham radio operation, the ban on amateur radio in Turkmenistan on December 31, 2006 got us a second North Korea. Neither locals nor foreigners are issued licenses to work from this country.

On February 2, 2007, Vladimir EZ8AI published an appeal on behalf of the radio amateurs of Turkmenistan that the Ministry of Communications of Turkmenistan. The Turkmenistan overnment stopped renewing or issuing new radio amateur licenses. Since the end of 2006, none of the radio amateurs can work legally from the any location within the country.

The DXCC desk still counts old EZ and UH8 QSLs for contacts through 2006. There were rumors on the bands that contacts with EZ7V (a club/contest station with a valid license expiring on December 31, 2011) would count, but Bill Moore of the ARRL DXCC Desk threw cold water on the rumor in June 2010. No ham activity from EZ after December 31, 2006 counts. No way.

It didn't used to be that way. In the 70's and 80's, UH8 and EZ stations were easily workable and counted for DXCC credit. I have almost 100 UH8 and EZ QSL cards from the era. Back in the day, I earned the "All Oblast" award from the USSR for working and confirming (THAT was a task!) all the regions (Oblasts) of the now-defunct Soviet Union.



Here are a few of those old cards:

TURKMENISTAN
On the air since 1955

EZ8BO

ex UH8AB UH8BG UA6XL UH8BO
Eugene Zvontsov
P.O.Box 880 Ashgabat 744027 Turkmenistan

CQ Zone 16
ITU Zone 30
Grid LM97ex
UDXC # 140

TO RADIO K9RHY VIA IL

Day	Month	Year	UTC	MHz	Two way	Report
22	5	94	0326	14	SSB CW	599
					SSB CW	

☐ PSE QSL TNX ☐ UXSUO print **73!**

U8BB
Juri V. Novikov

p. o. box 7, KRASNOVODSK, 745003, USSR.
tel. 1-65-38

TO RADIO	DATE	UTC	MHZ	RS-T	2-WAY
K9RHY	060590	0041	14	599	CW SSB

TNX FER QSO ES PSE QSL
VIA BUREAU OR DIRECT **73! juri**

UH9BWD WEST TURKOMAN OBL. 180 KRASNOVODSK

EX: UH8KAJ UH26BK UK8HAD UK8BAA
UH9BWD/UH8W UH9BWD/UH8Y

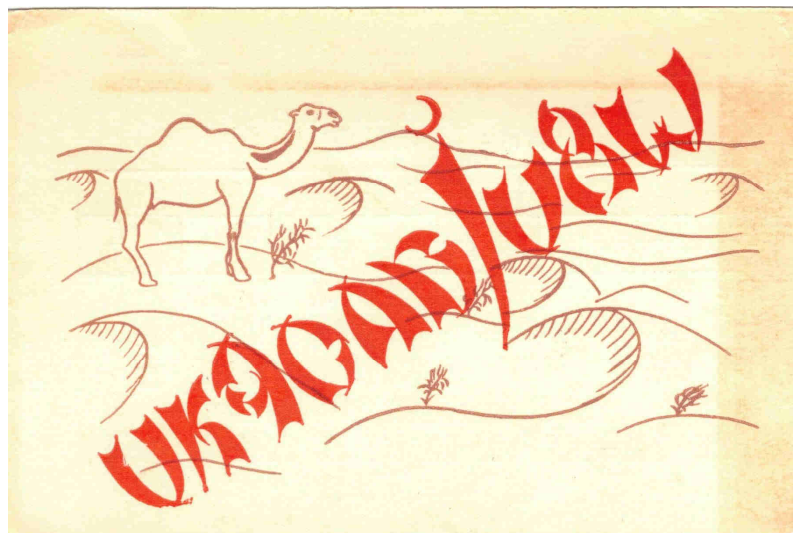
RADIO	DATE	UTC	RST	MC	MODE
K9RHY	21.06.87	0636	59	14	CW SSB

BOX 88, MOSCOW, USSR. **73!** AADXC

USSR
TURKMENISTAN QTH: ASHKHABAD
ZONE 17 REG. 043

UH8HAI

To radio K9RHY Date 9.02 1979 MC 14
at 1250 MSK GMT 2 way SSB CW AM RST 599
PSE QSL TKS Best 73!
via P.O.Box 88, Moscow, USSR 4-01896 Anatoly



So, what about the future? What could happen to put Turkmenistan (EZ) back on the air? After all, in a few more years it may rise to the top of the DXCC Want List because of inactivity. I speculate that Turkmenistan will join China, Albania, Myanmar and the DPRK as places that were ham-less for generations.

But like the DPRK, Turkmenistan's hereditary dictatorship will be the biggest inhibitor to ham radio operations. There are far too many parallels that can't be ignored. My speculation, for what it's worth, is that we won't see EZ back on the air – perhaps forever. And since DXing is becoming increasingly digital (thanks primarily to the rise of FT8) and Turkmenistan's aversion to computers, the future looks bleak indeed.

My \$0.02.

Be well and Good DX,

Bob, K9RHY

Some DX-Related Websites You Can Try

ARRL DX - <http://www.arrl.org/bulletins>

DX World - <https://dx-world.net/?s=bulletin>

DXNL - <https://www.darc.de/der-club/referate/dx/en/dxn/>

DX Summit - <http://www.dxsummit.fi/#/>

DX News - <https://dxnews.com/>

NG3K - <https://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>

ON4KST Chatrooms - <http://www.on4kst.com/chat/start.php>

Ham Alert - <https://hamalert.org>

JT Alert - <https://hamapps.com/>

PSK Reporter - <https://pskreporter.info>

Reverse Beacons - <http://www.reversebeacon.net/>

DX Maps – <https://www.dxmaps.com>



Dear Amateur Radio & DX Enthusiast,

Do you want to meet and mingle with all your DX friends? Are you saving money for yet another tower, rig or amp? Would you like to talk with some of the top Vendors in ham radio? Then Join us next year for a fun event: The 74th International DX Convention in Visalia, CA., April 21-23, 2023.

IDXC 2023 – co-sponsored by the Northern California DX Club (NCDXC) and the Central Arizona DX Association (CADXA) will be held at the beautiful Visalia Convention Center in downtown Visalia, CA. IDXC is the premier DX Convention in the United States, and is attended by hundreds of serious DXers and Contesters looking to improve their skills, upgrade their stations and spend some quality hands-on time with the vendors' latest equipment offerings. If you're interested in getting involved in DXing, this a great place to start!

Convention Highlights:

- A full 2.5 Day program: Friday (April 21); Saturday (April 22); 1/2 day Sunday (April 23)
- 15-20 DX & Technical Seminars on both Friday & Saturday
- Excellent Keynote Speakers
- 35-40 Exhibitors in large Exhibit Hall offering all the latest gear Friday and Saturday
- ARRL QSL Card Checking
- Great Raffle Prizes from ICOM, Yaesu, Elecraft, and others
- Special Sessions: Contest Forum; DX Forum; ARRL Forum; YL Forum
- Optional training on Friday: DX University and Contest Academy
- Eyeball QSOs with your DXing friends, or make some new ones!
- Optional Saturday Visalia Tour (for your non-ham guests)
- **IDXC Registration is now open and Hotel rooms are available!**
- **For more information and to register, visit our website at: dxconvention.com**

IDXC 2023 will be the biggest and the best International DX Convention yet, and we hope you'll be able to join us to enjoy it all!

73,

Clay Cougar - N5YJZ Ned Stearns - AA7A Paul Ewing - N6PSE IDXC 2023 Co-Chairs

info@dxconvention.com

Virtual IOTA Dinner

IOTA Friends:

If you avid DX'ers, you probably know that the International DX Convention (IDXC) in Visalia, California is returning in April 2023 after a long hiatus from COVID. Deo Gratias !

That means our in-person IOTA Dinner will also return. Our Dinner will again be held in the Marriott Hotel, next door to the Convention Center, as in recent years.

We have a page on the official IDXC web site, which will be updated in February or March when I am ready to start taking Dinner reservations. For now, you may want to bookmark this page: <https://www.dxconvention.com/pages/dinners-iota.html>

That covers 2023. What about 2022 ?

Since the 2022 International DX Convention was cancelled, I plan to host another "Virtual (online) Dinner" next month via Zoom as we did the last two years, in order to maintain our standing as the longest running annual IOTA get-together.

Since I have a limited Zoom account, I will primarily invite previous Visalia DX Convention attendees, IOTA Ltd management and QSL checkpoints, and major IOTA activators.

Zoom limits the free account to 40 minute sessions, so it will be a short presentation. We will recognize silent keys, quickly review the IOTA expeditions of this year, and go into a short presentation.

A separate e-mail will be sent next week with the Zoom invitation.

Hope to see you in Visalia, California !

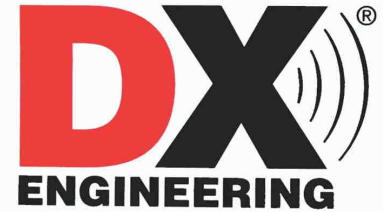
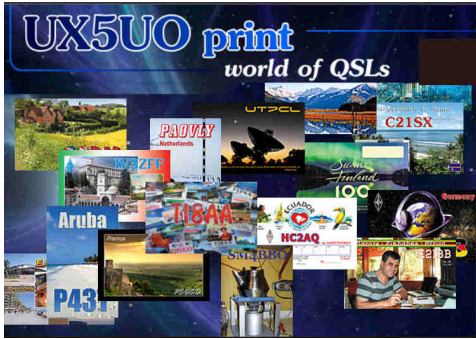
73, Will WC6DX

IOTA Dinner Coordinator

Visalia International DX Convention

Many Thanks to our Supporters, Friends and Sponsors

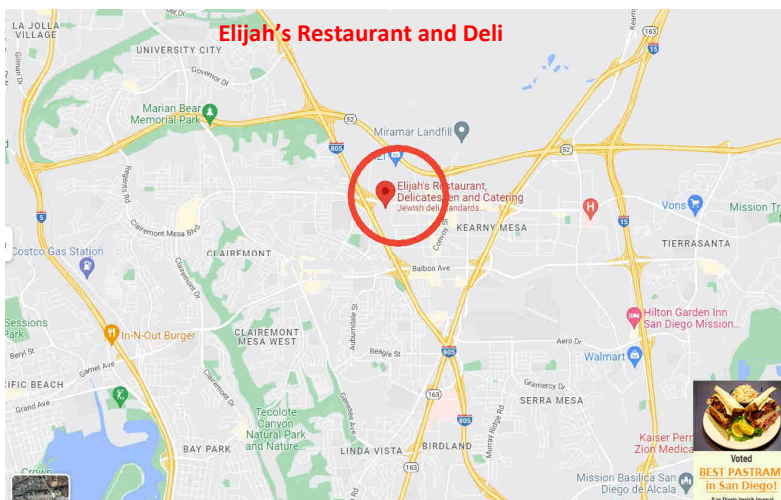
We are pleased to recognize the many businesses that help contribute to the success and vitality of the SDDXC



HAM RADIO DELUXE SOFTWARE
The Radio Amateur's Best Asset
www.HamRadioDeluxe.com



**Palomar
Engineers®**



Bioenno Power®